

LOWE SYNDROME PRESS RELEASE

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The Lowe Syndrome Trust awards a Lowe Syndrome research grant of £80,000 to Dr Tim Levine at the Institute of Ophthalmology London. The genetic basis for Lowe Syndrome is a defective gene OCRL1 that results in the deficiency of an enzyme Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate-5-phosphatase (OCRL1). Lowe's oculocerebrorenal syndrome is a disorder affecting the brain, eyes, kidneys and bones. Babies born with Lowe Syndrome are born with cataracts in both eyes and are likely to develop glaucoma and other eye conditions.



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Dr Tim Levine said “We are delighted to receive this grant from the Lowe Syndrome Trust. Here at the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, this will be our second grant from the charity, and enables us to continue in our quest to understand and treat Lowe Syndrome. We were fortunate in that our first project made the unexpected finding, that in Lowe Syndrome, cells that form sheets and tubules do not grow together normally. This might explain why complex cellular structures, such as the tubules that concentrate urine in the kidney, fail to function in Lowe Syndrome. Our new project will develop this important new line of research to show how we can rescue growth of cells in tubules, a necessary first step on the road to developing drugs that reverse the effects of Lowe Syndrome, restoring vital functionality.”